

## REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully solicited.

Claims 1 and 15 through 20 are pending, with Claims 1, 19, and 20 being independent. Claims 1, 19, and 20 have been amended.

Claims 1 and 15 through 20 yet again were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph, for lack of written description. All rejections are respectfully traversed. Applicant respectfully submits that the objected-to expression is supported by the specification at, e.g., page 21, lines 14-20, which states, *inter alia*, that image data to which the image quality adjustment processes were executed may be respectively reduced by exclusive resolution converters.

Claims 1, 15 through 17, 18, 19, and 20 again were variously rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over U.S. Patent No. 6,791,624 B1 (Suga), U.S. Patent No. 6,449,018 B1 (Yokoyama), and U.S. Patent No. 6,492,982 B1 (Matsuzaki, et al.). All rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claims 1, 19, and 20 variously recite, *inter alia*, that the resolution converting means or step converts an image to which a process by the image quality adjustment process means or step has been executed, and the image quality adjustment process means or step executes the process to the image to which the conversion by the resolution converting means or step is **not yet** executed.

However, Applicant respectfully submits that none of Suga, Yokoyama, and Matsuzaki, et al., even in the proposed combinations, assuming, *arguendo*, that such could be combined, discloses or suggests at least the above-discussed claimed features as recited, *inter alia*, in Claims 1, 19, and 20.

In this regard, the Official Action asserts at page 5, lines 6-9, that Suga's Figs. 5 and 6 show such features. Applicant respectfully traverses this assertion. Applicant respectfully wishes to point out that in said figures, e.g., an image is reduced by resolution conversion and

then the reduced image is subjected to image quality adjustment, which is completely different from the above-discussed claimed features.

It is further respectfully submitted that there has been no showing of any indication of motivation in the cited documents that would lead one having ordinary skill in the art to arrive at such claimed features. By means of such features, Applicant submits that it is possible to prevent a problem wherein an image is reduced by resolution conversion and the reduced image is subjected to image quality adjustment, i.e., in the problem, image quality adjustment is executed to an image which has been reduced in size and thus of which the image quality has been deteriorated.

The dependent claims are also submitted to be patentable because they set forth additional aspects of the present invention and are dependent from independent claims discussed above. Therefore, separate and individual consideration of each dependent claim is respectfully requested.

Applicant submits that this application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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